

16th February, 1956.

Dear Dr. Osborne,

I have now passed your article for publication, and it has been sent to Professor Darlington. Perhaps my feelings about the term 'heritability' are best expressed by saying that in most cases the finding of a value, say 0.15, should be reported as "the heritability on this occasion (or for this flock, or for the particular system of management employed) was .15". Since the ratio is influenced also by the care with which records are taken, and by the uniformity of environment which it has been possible to achieve, it would be as reasonable to call the ratio a measure of uniformity of management, as it would be to call it a measure of heritability. One would like to see workers sometimes report that with the experimental design, and with the new system of pens employed in this experiment, the disturbing effects of environmental fluctuations on the performance of individuals have been kept so low as to be no more than five times the amount due to inherited genes.

In fact the word 'heritability' has only got a bogus flavour

about it because Wright's ratio is so often misinterpreted by reason of his choice of name for it.

Sincerely yours,